



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
for the
YEAR 1957.



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. KENRICK HUGHES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

H. G. FAWCETT, C.S.I.B.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN --- MR. F. C. ELLIS.

The Committee consists of all Members of the Council

I have the honour to present my Seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Llangollen Urban District for the Year ended 31st December 1937 together with the information supplied by the Public Health Inspector.

Considerable progress was made towards solving some of the Council's major problems with regard to a Sewage Disposal Scheme, Housing and expansion of our Water Undertaking. A deputation from this Council visited Cardiff on July 16th. Following this, the date of the Inquiry into the Sewage Scheme was fixed for 29th October and was approved in principle on December 27th. As a result of this, consent was given for a conference with the River Board with regard to the erection of 20 Council Houses as a first instalment to meet immediate and pressing needs.

The Minister for Welsh Affairs visited Wrexham on May 24th to pay an informal visit to meet Members and Chief Officials of the Wrexham Rural District and Llangollen Urban District Councils and the problems of both Councils were discussed with him.

It is satisfactory to report that there were no epidemics of infectious disease during the year.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis made good progress and the response was very satisfactory. No complications have arisen so far in connection with this.

I should like to thank Mr. Fawcett for his help throughout the year, which is so generously given.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I am also indebted to the Clerk of the Council and Mr. Knox for their help and the assistance I receive from them in compiling this report.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Area of the district in acres | 3,107. |
| Registrar General's estimated population..... | 3,140. |
| Number of inhabited houses | 1,089. |
| Rateable Value of the District as at 1st OCTOBER | 1957 £28,783. |
| Sum represented by product of a penny rate for the Year ended 31st March 1958 | £112. 17. 6 |

Population:

The estimated population of the Town as given by the Registrar General was 3,140 as compared with 3,150 in 1956. Our population has remained at about this level for several years. It requires new industries in the town to increase the population appreciably. We are fortunate in having a number of new industries coming to the town but until we can house the workers the population cannot rise.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - (Comparability Factor 1.02)

| | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 22. | 19. | 41. |
| Illegitimate | 1. | 1. | 1. |
| Totals. | 22. | 20. | 42. |

| | | |
|---|-------------|--------|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... | Crude ... | 13.37. |
| | Adjusted... | 13.63. |
| Birth Rate in England and Wales - - - - - | | 16.10. |

There was a total of 42 live births as compared with 58 during 1956 showing a drop of 16 on last year.

The Birth Rate was correspondingly lower at 13.65 as compared with 13.96 in 1956.

This year our Birth Rate was below that of England and Wales which is 16.10.

Still Births.

There were 2 still births during 1957. There were none during 1956.

Deaths. - (Comparability factor .87)

| <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 19. | 34. | 53. |

The total number of deaths registered was 53 as compared to 31 in 1956.

The death rate was 14.68 as compared with 9.84 in 1953.
- that for England and Wales was 11.5.

The total number of deaths was 22 more than in 1956 which is a large increase.

The chief causes of death are shown in the following table :

| <u>Causes of Death:</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Tuberculosis. | 1. | -. | 1. |
| Malignant neoplasms: | | | |
| Stomach. | 2. | 1. | 3. |
| Lungs & Bronchus. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| Breast. | -. | 2. | 2. |
| Other lymphatic and malignant neoplasms. | 2. | 3. | 5. |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system. | 2. | 8. | 10. |
| Coronary disease - Angina. | 5. | 3. | 8. |
| Hypertension with heart disease. | 1. | 1. | 2. |
| Other heart diseases. | 1. | 7. | 8. |
| Other circulatory diseases. | -. | 2. | 2. |
| Bronchitis. | 1. | -. | 1. |
| Gastritis, Enteritis &c. | 1. | -. | 1. |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | -. | 4. | 4. |
| Motor vehicle accidents. | 1. | -. | 1. |
| All other accidents. | -. | 2. | 2. |
| Suicide. | 1. | -. | 1. |
| | <hr/> 19. | <hr/> 34. | <hr/> 53. |

Diseases of the heart and circulation caused 30 deaths as compared to 19 in 1956. These diseases usually cause deaths in the older age groups.

There were 12 deaths from cancer as compared to only 2 in 1956 which shows a marked increase, but as there were only 2 deaths from cancer of the lung, the increase cannot be blamed on cigarette smoking.

Infantile deaths.

There were 2 infant deaths during the year as compared to only 1 in 1956.

Both children were below the age of 4 weeks.

The infantile mortality rate was 47.4 as compared with 17.4 in 1956. This represents a big rise and is due to the lower number of births.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 23.0 per 1000 live births. Thus we find our infant mortality is double that of the country as a whole, this year.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 3 notifications of infectious disease in 1957, as compared to 90 in 1956.

There were no epidemics this year, whereas we had an outbreak of dysentery in 1956, which was the cause of the large number of cases that year.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

The County Council provide the facilities for carrying out these services at the Clinics and Schools. Diphtheria is now a rare disease and no cases have occurred in Llangollen for many years. This immunity is due to the protection afforded to the children by immunisation. Consequently it is only by stressing the importance of immunisation as a preventive measure that we can hope to keep the children of our town free from this dreadful disease.

During 1957 the figures were somewhat low due to the fact that most of the children were being vaccinated against polio. 5 were immunised against diphtheria alone. 35 were immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough. 4 received reinforcing injections.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

This disease now only occurs when infected cases land in this country by sea or air from abroad. The disease is still rampant in the Far Eastern countries and a close watch has to be maintained on all persons who come from such places. Several small outbreaks have been started in this country in this way, hence the importance of protecting our children by vaccination.

Polio vaccination.

132 children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year.

Details of Immunisations.

| | <u>AGE GROUPS.</u> | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | <u>0-1.</u> | <u>1-4.</u> | <u>5-9.</u> | <u>10-14.</u> | <u>15 plus</u> |
| Diphtheria | -. | 1. | -. | 4. | -. |
| Diphtheria and whooping cough. | 30. | 5. | -. | -. | -. |
| Reinforcings | -. | -. | 4. | -. | -. |
| <u>Vaccinations.</u> | <u>0 - 1.</u> | <u>1 - 4.</u> | <u>5-14.</u> | <u>15.</u> | <u>Plus</u> |
| Primary | 20. | 1. | 1. | 3. | |
| Reinforcings | -. | 1. | -. | 3. | |

HEALTH SERVICES.

There have been no changes in the general provision for Health Services since 1948, and the Clinics available are :-

1. The County Council Child Welfare Clinic at Llangollen.
2. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Llangollen taken by the
County Obstretician.

The larger Hospitals available in the immediate neighbourhood are :-

1. The Wrexham War Memorial Hospital.
2. The Wrexham Emergency Hospital.
3. The Wrexham Fever Hospital.
4. The Wrexham Tuberculosis Dispensary.
5. The Park Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Denbighshire County Council, and an Ambulance is stationed in the Town.



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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Sanitary Inspections.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byclaws within the area :-

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Housing matters | First visit | - | ... | 37. |
| | Second visit | - | ... | 19. |
| Dangerous structures. | | | ... | 3. |
| Nuisances - | First visit. | | ... | 28. |
| | Second visit. | | ... | 65. |
| Water Supply. | Works. | | ... | 62. |
| | Defective services and wastages | | | 35. |
| Disinfection and disinfestations | | ... | | 14. |
| Drains sewers cesspools and privies | | ... | | 137. |
| Food premises | | ... | | 47. |
| Slaughterhouses. | | | | 66. |
| Milk and Dairies. | | | | 6. |
| Factories. | | | | 30. |
| Amusement houses. | | | | 3. |
| Schools. | | | | 6. |
| Scavenging and disposal. | | | | 47. |
| New buildings and alterations. | | | | 61. |
| Markets. | | | | 52. |
| Miscellaneous. | | | | 86. |

Total. 804.

Summary of Notices served.

| | <u>Informal.</u> | <u>Formal.</u> | <u>Remedied.</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Dwellinghouses - structural defects | 7. | -. | 7. |
| Nuisances. | 4. | -. | 4. |
| Water Supply. | -. | -. | -. |
| Drainage. | -. | 4. | 4. |

Water Supply.

The Water Undertaking's direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Vivod Area and in dry periods the yield of the stream is insufficient to meet demands and we have to resort to auxiliary pumping from the River Dee at the Horseshoe Falls.

This Year we had a dry Spring and had to pump from the river for a few weeks in June and early July.

All the water supplied to the town is chlorinated and regular checks are made to ensure that the water is of the highest possible bacteriological standard.

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water:

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory - 10.
Number returned "Highly satisfactory" 10.

Chemical Analysis of Raw Water.

(A)...VIVOD STREAM.

In parts per Million of water :-

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Total solid matter in solution | 160.0 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates. | 1.0 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides. | 14.0 |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80° | 0.60. |
| Free and saline ammonia. | Nil. |
| Albuminoid Ammonia. | 0.03 |
| Lead, Copper, Zinc. | Nil. |
| Microscopical examination of the sediment | - Trace of vegetable debris. |
| Temporary Hardness. | 60.0. |
| Permanent Hardness. | 17.0. |
| pH value. | 7.6. |

" The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. The treatment
 " by sedimentation, rapid sand filtration and chloramine should
 " render this water fit for drinking, provided the
 " bacteriological quality after treatment is satisfactory.
 " The water is a "soft" one.

(B)... RIVER DEE.

In parts per million of water :

| | |
|---|-------|
| Total solid matter in solution. | 80.0 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates. | 0.25 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides. | 10.0 |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours @ 80° | 4.36 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia. | 0.08 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia. | 0.30. |
| Lead, copper, zinc. | NIL. |
| Microscopical examination of sediment - Trace vegetable debris. | |
| Temporary hardness. | 20.0 |
| Permanent hardness. | 4.0 |
| pH value. | 6.6. |

" This sample is rather discoloured probably due to peaty water, "
 " also there is some indication of contamination by sewage. "
 " For removal of the colour, I would advise treatment with Lime "
 " and Alumina Ferric, before sedimentation and rapid filtration; "
 " also as the water is of doubtful quality very special "
 " precautions should be taken to see that the Chloramine treatment "
 " is continuous and that the bacteriological quality of the "
 " treated water is first class. "
 " As the water is very soft with a pH 6.6 I would advise having "
 " a sample tested for Lead, the sample to be taken from a house "
 " with lead service pipes. "

New Works.

In November the permanent flow recorder was set to work measuring the Town's water consumption.

The following Table indicates the amount and distribution of the water produced by the undertaking during the Year.

| Nature of Consumption. | Total consumption in million gallons for the 12 months ending 31st December 1957. | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Domestic. | 41,880,000. | Estimated |
| Trade including Agriculture. | 16,600,000. | Metered |
| | 15,000,000. | Estimated |
| Others. | 1,780,000. | -(Metered bulk supply to Wrexham R.D.C. (Llantysilio supply. |
| | 75,260,000. | |

At the end of the Year the Council's Consulting Engineers were still engaged on the preparation of a scheme for improving the water undertaking. This includes electrifying the pumping plant at the Horseshoe Falls, providing an additional rapid sand filter at the works and enlarging the three service reservoirs situated at Fron Bache, Pengwern and Geufron, and also laying additional lengths of mains to cope with increased consumption in parts of the Town.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In October a Public Inquiry was held into the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme and late in December the Council received approval in principle to the scheme.

The Council are now pressing their Consulting Engineers to finalise the details so that tenders for the work may be invited and the scheme put into operation at the earliest possible date.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and the majority of properties in the district are cleared weekly.

The tip at Wenffrwd continues to be used for controlled disposal.

HOUSING.

Whilst 4 houses were erected by private enterprise there were none erected by the Local Authority.

The brake on Local Authority house building has been due to the absence of an efficient sewerage system. Now that this problem is at the point of solution, the Council are resolved to press on with their house building programme.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer treatments are carried out at regular intervals by the Council's own staff. This helps considerably to minimise the rodent population. Very few complaints are received from private dwellings and these are generally dealt with by advice or in more serious infestations by our own staff. Two firms in the town have contracts with servicing firms and another firm have their own trained operator who carries out periodic treatments.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the Year the owners of the 4 moveable dwellings which had been licensed by the Council were given notice to quit, because the land on which they were stationed changed hands.

Another farmer tried to establish a caravan and camping site without reference to the Council. The site was totally unsuitable for this purpose and eventually one caravan only was licensed on the site.

At the end of the year investigations were being made into 7 other unlicensed caravans in the district with a view to bringing them in to the control of the Council under the Public Health Acts.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Premises where food is prepared and sold are inspected regularly to ascertain whether the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations are being adhered to.

Food Traders in the Town are becoming more hygiene conscious. A number have sought advice of the Department regarding structural alterations they wish to carry out to improve their premises. Every assistance is given to traders who are obviously aware of their responsibilities to the public to produce food in the most hygienic circumstances.

A list of foods surrendered voluntarily by traders is given below :-

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Fruit. | 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs | Tinned meat | 111 lbs |
| Bacon | 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs | Tinned tomatoes | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs |
| Sausage. | 18 lbs | Tinnes Ham. | 270 lbs |
| Tinned milk | 6 tins | Tinned vegetables | 6 lbs |
| Tinned fish. | 2 tins. | | |

ICE CREAM.

All ice cream sold in the district is prepacked and manufactured by reputable firms outside the district.

Twenty two premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act for sale **only**.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There is only one Licensed Retail Dairy in the Town, Supplementary Licences have been issued to three distributors who come into the district but have their dairies outside the area.

One retail grocer is licensed to sell sterilised milk.

MARKETS.

Weekly auction sales have been held throughout the Year and in September there were the Annual Sheep Sales and the Welsh Half-Bred Sheep Breeders Association Annual Sale.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

There is one licensed private slaughterhouse in the district. Slaughtering is carried on there on one or two days weekly.

All carcasses and offal are inspected and ante-mortem inspections are carried out whenever possible.

The cleanliness of the premises and slaughtering methods have been maintained at a high standard.

The quality of the meat produced has been very good. The low incidence of disease found can be appreciated from the following table :-

| <u>Carcases and offal inspected and condemned</u> <u>in whole or in part</u> | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| | Cattle (excluding Cows) | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and lambs. | Pigs |
| Number killed. | 95. | 4. | 55. | 977. | 66. |
| Whole carcase condemned | -- | - | - | 1 | - |
| Carcases: of which some part or organ was condemned | 6. | 1. | 1. | 6. | 4. |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than TB. | 6.31 $\frac{1}{2}$ % | 25% | 1.82% | 0.72% | 6.06% |
| <u>T. B. ONLY.</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcase condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned. | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease. | - | - | -- | - | 6.06% |

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :-

| PREMISES. | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| | | Inspections. | Notices. | Prosecutions |
| (1) Factorites in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority. | 2. | 4. | Nil. | Nil. |
| (2) Factorites not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 22. | 44 | 2 | Nil. |
| TOTALS. | 24. | 48. | 2 . | Nil. |

Cases in which defects were found.

| | FOUND. | REMEDIED. | REFERRED BY H.M. INSPECTOR. |
|---|--------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective | 3. | 3. | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | - | - | 3. |
| Totals. | 3. | 3. | 3. |

Yours obediently,

T. K. HUGHES

Medical Officer of Health.

OCTOBER 1958.

